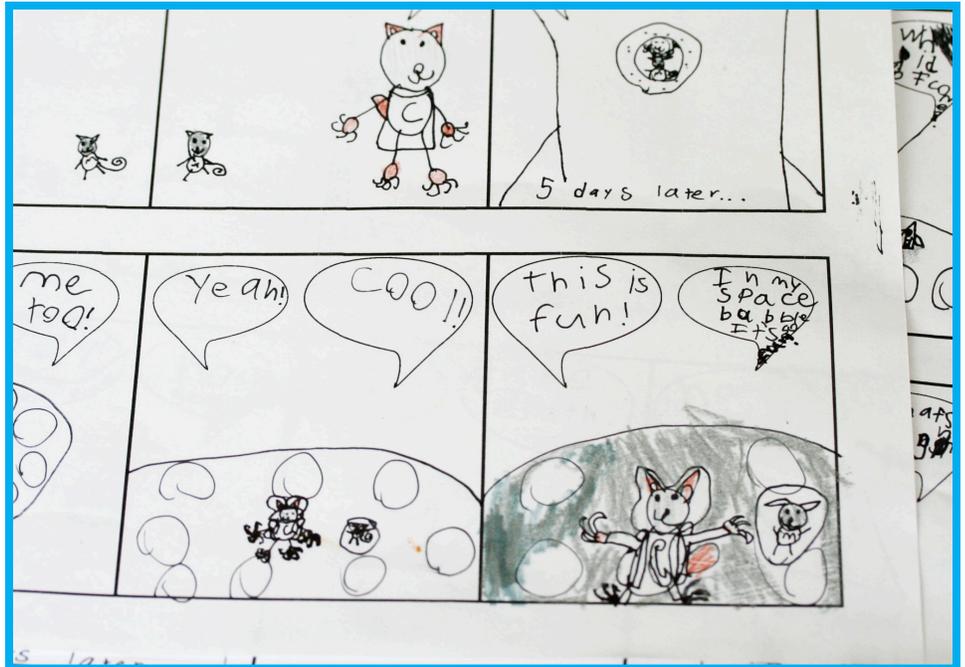


DRAW-YOUR-OWN COMIC BOOKS

MATERIALS:

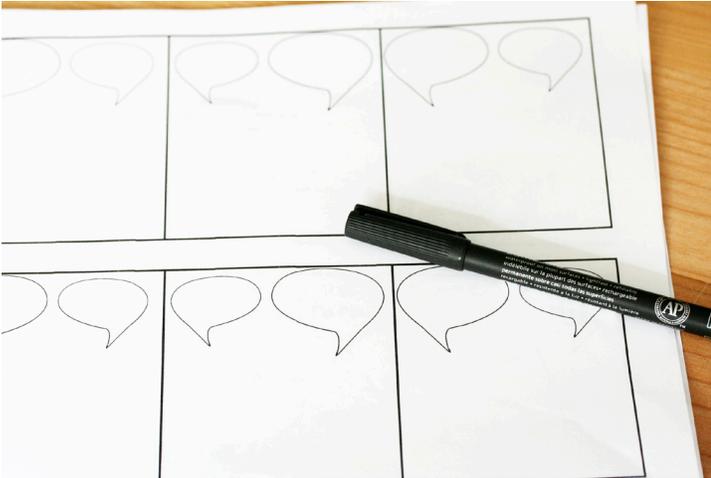
- printed comic template pages
- pens, pencils, markers
- heavy weight paper for cover
- stapler
- scissors



Ever since discovering a love for her father's childhood collection of *Calvin and Hobbes* books last winter, my little girl has been all about the comics. From *Garfield* to *Peanuts*, she seems to find endless enjoyment in reading and rereading the humorous misadventures of her favorite cartoon characters. So what better activity for a slow summer afternoon (or a rainy early fall one, really) than sketching up a homemade comic of her very own? After some amount of debate about the details, we decided that making these draw-your-own comic books feel authentic meant that they should have boldly printed panels to contain the action and that the binding should be no fancier than plain old staples. The plus side of my daughter's insistence on keeping it real is that this is one bookmaking project that is super easy and almost entirely focused on content.

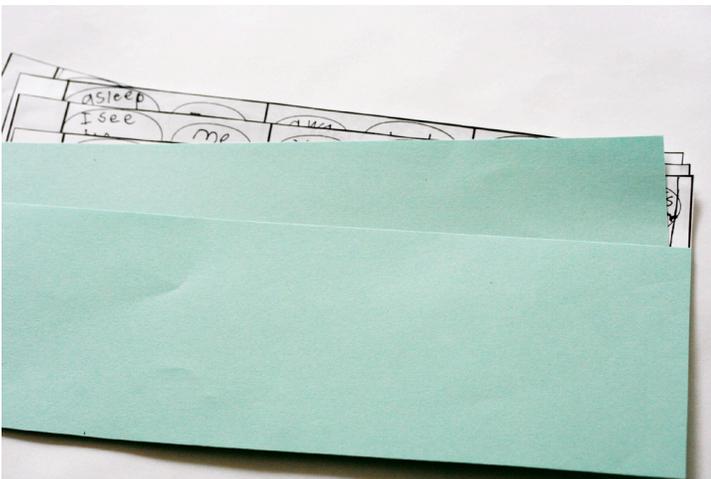
Read on to find instructions for putting together the simplest of books to house one-of-a-kind comic panels drawn by you and yours. And, just for fun and the sake of simplicity, you'll also find pages outfitted with comic panel templates that can be easily printed if the idea is just to get busy drawing and not to fuss with things like rulers and making straight lines. So let's get started!

MAKING COMIC BOOKS



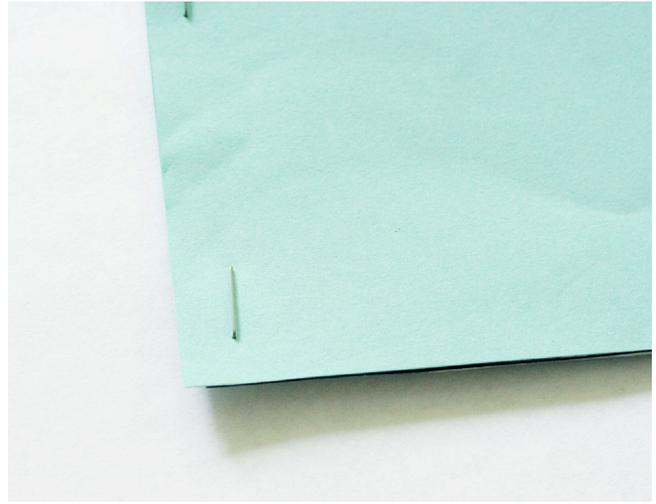
Begin by printing out any of the comic book template pages that you might like to use.

Draw pictures, write words, tell the story that needs to be told...



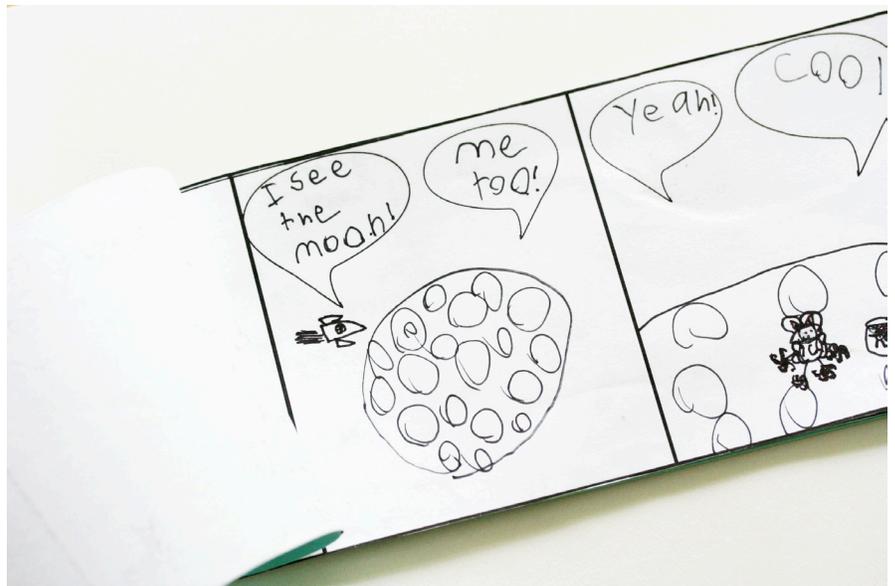
Cut out your comic book panels along the solid, outside lines so that they become long strips. Cut the cover paper to match the size of your comic strips, about 3 1/2 inches wide by 9 3/4 inches long.

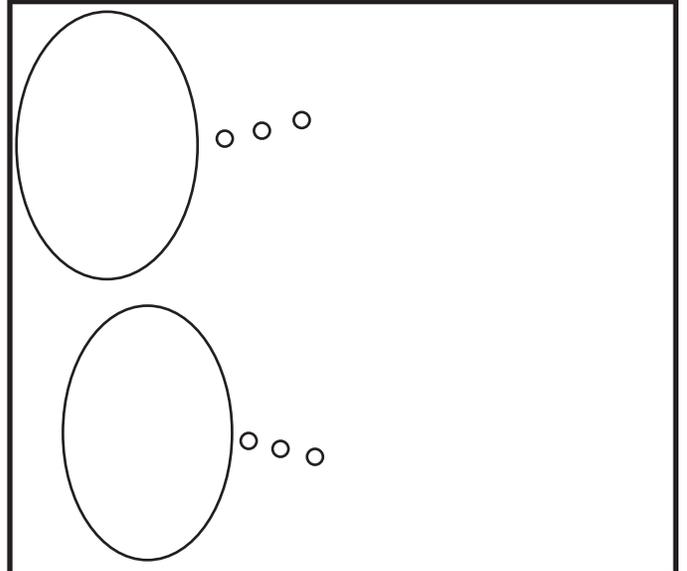
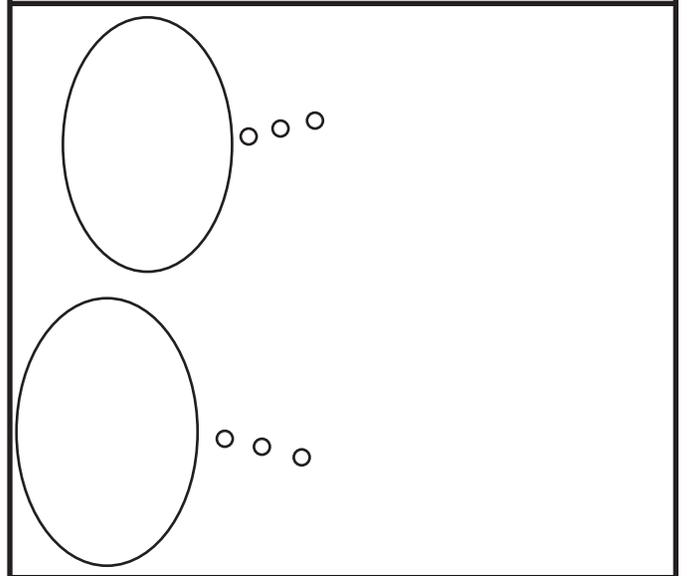
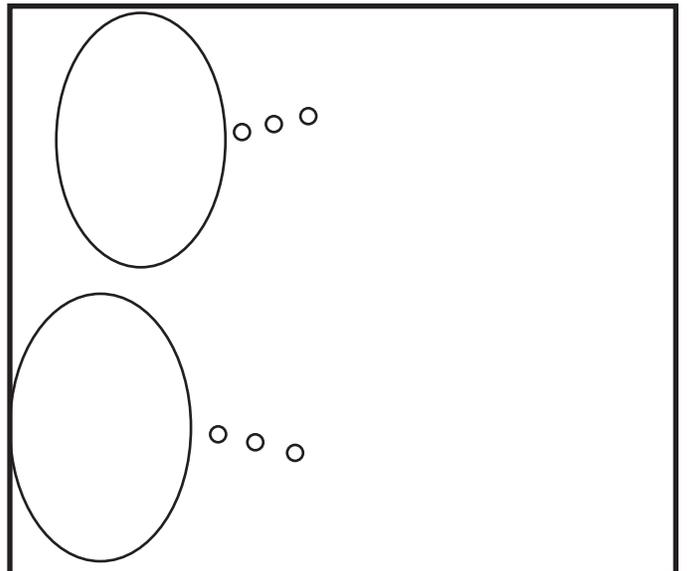
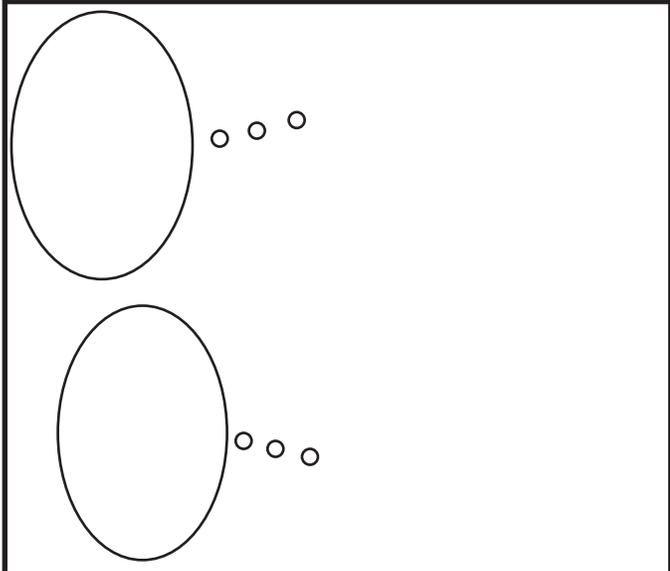
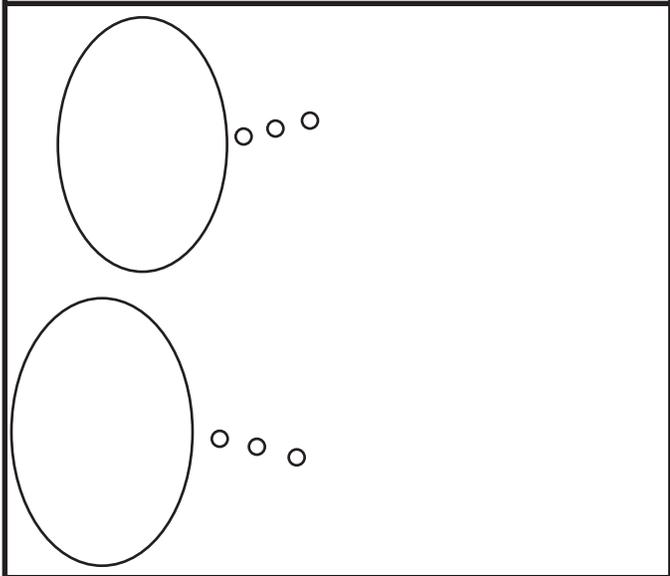
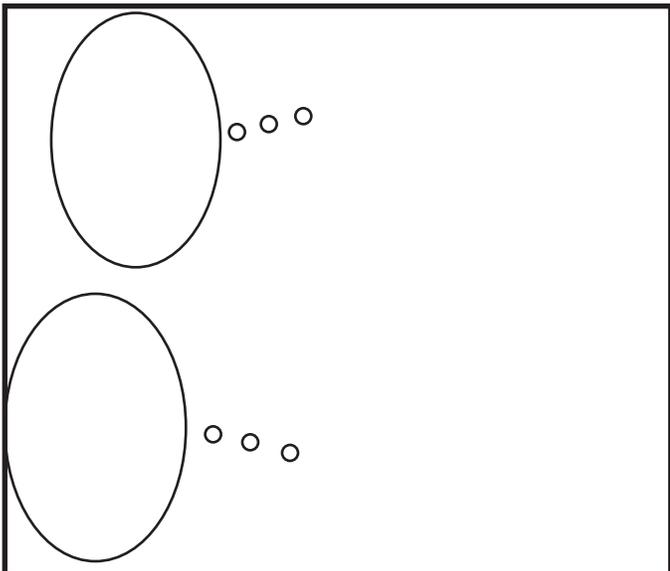
Stack the comic panels in the correct order and sandwich them between the two pieces of cover paper, neatly matching up all of the edges. Staple the stack together at one of the short ends.

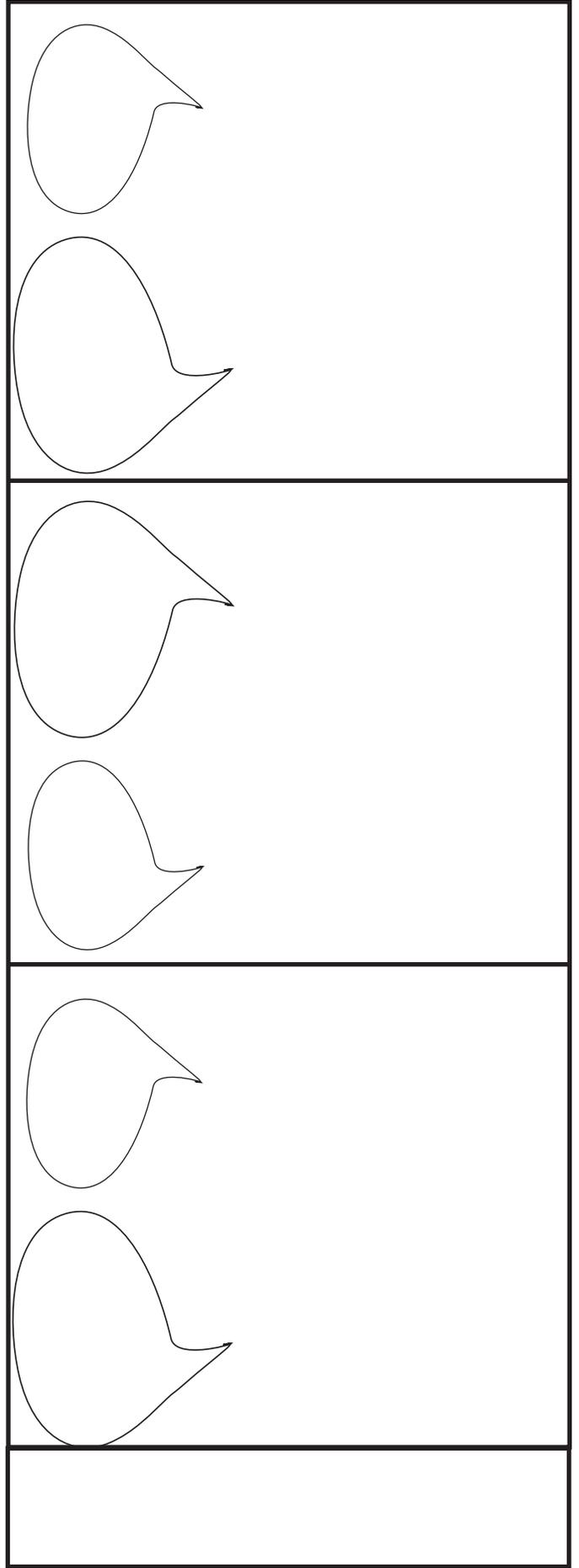
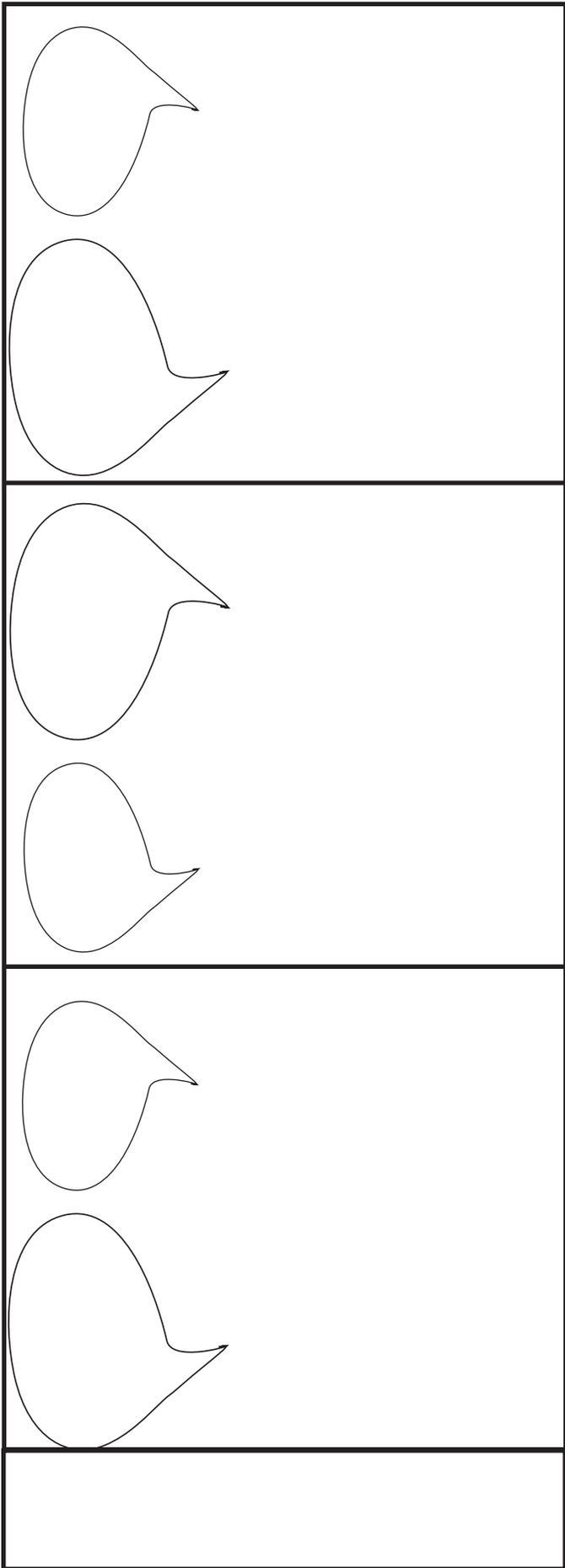


Now, outfit the comic book with a cover illustration and title. Something catchy; alliteration is always a plus.

That's really about it. Super easy, no? So why not make it the first of a series?







Want a taller comic book? Use this template and skip the scissors for a full page of panels and a larger book.

